



**Graham County, City of Safford, Town of Thatcher, and Town of Pima Begins Work on Hazard Mitigation Plan  
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Hazard mitigation planning is the process used to identify risks and vulnerabilities associated with natural disasters and to develop long-term strategies for protecting people and property in future hazard events. The process results in a mitigation plan that offers a strategy for breaking the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage and a framework for developing feasible and cost-effective mitigation projects. Under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390), state, county, local and tribal governments are required to develop a FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan as a condition for receiving certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance.

In order to meet the requirements to ensure assistance eligibility, a planning team comprised of representatives from Graham County, City of Safford, Town of Thatcher, and Town of Pima will be meeting regularly to develop a Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. The planning team anticipates having a plan draft in early 2009, at which time the public will be provided access to the plan and the opportunity to comment prior to submittal to FEMA.

The primary areas of work/focus in the plan development are:

- ❖ Identify hazards that may impact or have impacted the community
- ❖ Develop a profile of the most relevant hazards
- ❖ Assess vulnerability to hazards
- ❖ Establish goals and objectives for hazard risk reduction/elimination
- ❖ Develop actions/projects to achieve goals and objectives

**Additional Information & Questions**

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